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News Release

national machine tool builders association

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MACHINE TOOL ORDERS DOWN IN FEBRUARY

February machine tool orders fell to $145.10 million, down 1.1% from the $146.65 million posted in January, according to figures released today by the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. New orders for metal cutting machinery rose 4.9% to $103.75 million from January's $98.95 million, while orders for metal forming equipment fell 13.3% to $41.35 million from $47.70 million. When compared to February a year ago, these figures represent a 31.0% drop in machine tool orders.

Machine tool shipments for February stood at $137.70 million, a drop of 6.8% from January's $147.70 million. This includes a 10.5% drop, to $99.55 million, in shipments of metal cutting equipment and a 4.7% rise, to $38.15 million, in shipments of metal forming equipment. The February shipments total represents a 32.1% drop when compared to February a year ago.

"Capital investment cutbacks, the effects of the new tax laws and moderate capacity utilization rates have combined to create a period of uncertainty for the manufacturing industries of the United States. This uncertainty is reflected in the declines that we are

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seeing in new orders for machine tools," stated James A. Gray, president of the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. He went on to say "Our industry has been through difficult times before and we have always rallied and met the situation head on. This period of change, though more wrenching and longer-lasting, is no different. We know that new technology is the way of the future and are pleased that progress on the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences is well underway. As the initial sponsor of this center, machine tool builders have demonstrated their commitment to the future of American manufacturing technology and their awareness of the part they must play to keep their products on the leading edge of that technology."

Metal cutting machine tool orders through February 1987 were down 33.2% when compared to the same period in 1986. Metal forming equipment orders were down 8.7% for the same period. These figures represent a combined year-to-date drop in new orders of 27.3%, with the figure falling from $401.15 million to $291.75 million.

Year-to-date shipments of machine tools fell 18.1%, dropping to $285.40 million from $348.50 million. This figure represents a 2.1% drop in metal cutting machine tool shipments and a 44.0% drop in metal forming machine tool shipments.

Machine tool backlogs for February 1987 rose to $1,210.70 million, up from $1,203.30 million for January 1987.

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COMPARISON CHART

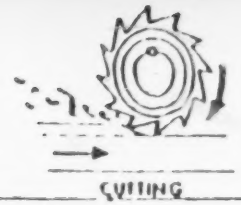
NET NEW ORDERS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Millions of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
FEB 1987	98.40	5.35	103.75	35.55	5.80	41.35	133.95	11.15	145.10
JAN 1987	85.65	13.30	98.95	32.90	14.80	47.70	118.55	28.10	146.65
% CHANGE									
FEB 1987:JAN 1987	+14.9	-59.8	+4.9	+8.1	-60.8	-13.3	+13.0	-60.3	-1.1
FEB 1986	160.65	7.95	168.60	37.60	4.20	41.80	198.25	12.15	210.40
% CHANGE									
FEB 1987:FEB 1986	-38.7	-32.7	-38.5	-5.5	+38.1	-1.1	-32.4	-8.2	-31.0
YEAR TO DATE 1987	184.05	18.65	202.70	68.45	20.60	89.05	252.50	39.25	291.75
YEAR TO DATE 1986	285.40	18.20	303.60	87.80	9.75	97.55	373.20	27.95	401.15
% CHANGE									
1987 : 1986	-35.5	+2.5	-33.2	-22.0	+111.3	-8.7	-32.3	+40.4	-27.3

SHIPMENTS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Millions of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
FEB 1987	89.15	10.40	99.55	34.95	3.20	38.15	124.10	13.60	137.70
JAN 1987	104.10	7.15	111.25	31.25	5.20	36.45	135.35	12.35	147.70
% CHANGE									
FEB 1987:JAN 1987	-14.4	+45.5	-10.5	+11.8	+-38.5	+4.7	-8.3	+10.1	-6.8
FEB 1986	109.50	14.40	123.90	76.15	2.60	78.75	185.65	17.00	202.65
% CHANGE									
FEB 1987:FEB 1986	-18.6	-27.8	-19.7	-54.1	+23.1	-51.6	-33.2	-20.0	-32.1
YEAR TO DATE 1987	193.25	17.55	210.80	66.20	8.40	74.60	259.45	25.95	285.40
YEAR TO DATE 1986	183.55	31.85	215.40	126.95	6.15	133.10	310.50	38.00	348.50
% CHANGE									
1987 : 1986	+5.3	-44.9	-2.1	-47.9	+36.6	-44.0	-16.4	-31.7	-18.1

Source: National Machine Tool Builders' Association



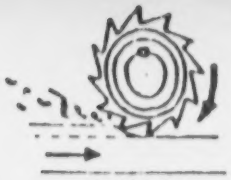
TOTAL INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
MACHINE TOOLS - CUTTING AND FORMING
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 1,883.35	$ 241.95	$ 2,125.30	1,204.35	$ 2,306.05	$ 272.45	$ 2,578.50
1987							
JAN	$ 118.55	$ 28.10	$ 146.65	1,203.30	$ 135.35	$ 12.35	$ 147.70
FEB (P)	$ 133.95	$ 11.15	$ 145.10	1,210.70	$ 124.10	$ 13.60	$ 137.70
2 MONTHS	$ 252.50	$ 39.25	$ 291.75		$ 259.45	$ 25.95	$ 285.40

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 2,065.20	$ 257.20	$ 2,322.40	$ 181.85	$ 15.25	$ 197.10
1987						
JAN	$ 124.60	$ 28.20	$ 152.80	$ 6.05	$ .10	$ 6.15
FEB (P)	$ 139.85	$ 13.35	$ 153.20	$ 5.90	$ 2.20	$ 8.10
2 MONTHS	$ 264.45	$ 41.55	$ 306.00	$ 11.95	$ 2.30	$ 14.25

P - Preliminary

NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.



INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL CUTTING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 1,376.55	$ 167.70	$ 1,544.25	897.25	$ 1,684.70	$ 205.60	$ 1,890.30
1987							
JAN	$ 85.65	$ 13.30	$ 98.95	884.95	$ 104.10	$ 7.15	$ 111.25
FEB (P)	$ 98.40	$ 5.35	$ 103.75	889.15	$ 89.15	$ 10.40	$ 99.55
2 MONTHS	$ 184.05	$ 18.65	$ 202.70		$ 193.25	$ 17.55	$ 210.80

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 1,498.60	$ 176.35	$ 1,674.95	$ 122.05	$ 8.65	$ 130.70
1987						
JAN	$ 90.30	$ 13.35	$ 103.65	$ 4.65	$ .05	$ 4.70
FEB (P)	$ 101.60	$ 7.50	$ 109.10	$ 3.20	$ 2.15	$ 5.35
2 MONTHS	$ 191.90	$ 20.85	$ 212.75	$ 7.85	$ 2.20	$ 10.05

P - Preliminary

NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.

INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL FORMING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 506.80	$ 74.25	$ 581.05	307.10	$ 621.35	$ 66.85	$ 688.20
1987							
JAN	$ 32.90	$ 14.80	$ 47.70	318.35	$ 31.25	$ 5.20	$ 36.45
FEB (P)	$ 35.55	$ 5.80	$ 41.35	321.55	$ 34.95	$ 3.20	$ 38.15
2 MONTHS	$ 68.45	$ 20.60	$ 89.05		$ 66.20	$ 8.40	$ 74.60

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 566.60	$ 80.85	$ 647.45	$ 59.80	$ 6.60	$ 66.40
1987						
JAN	$ 34.30	$ 14.85	$ 49.15	$ 1.40	$ .05	$ 1.45
FEB (P)	$ 38.25	$ 5.85	$ 44.10	$ 2.70	$ .05	$ 2.75
2 MONTHS	$ 72.55	$ 20.70	$ 93.25	$ 4.10	$ .10	$ 4.20

P - Preliminary
NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.